

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) A method for inhibiting the expression of a target gene in a substrate cell that expresses the targeted gene, comprising the steps of:

a) providing a composition comprising an mRNA-cDNA hybrid prior to contacting said substrate cell, wherein the mRNA-cDNA hybrid is capable of inhibiting the expression of said targeted gene in said substrate cell; and

b) contacting said substrate cell with said composition under conditions such that the expression of said gene in said substrate cell is inhibited.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 32, wherein said substrate cell expresses said targeted gene *in vivo*.

35. (Original) The method of Claim 32, wherein said targeted gene comprises a gene selected from the group consisting of pathogenic nucleic acids, viral genes, mutated genes, and oncogenes.

36. (Original) The method of Claim 32, wherein said mRNA-cDNA hybrid inhibits β -catenin expression.

37. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 32, wherein said mRNA-cDNA hybrid inhibits bcl-2 expression.

38. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 32, wherein said ~~substrate~~ cell is a ~~prokaryote~~ prokaryotic cell.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 38, wherein said ~~prokaryote~~ cell is a bacterial cell.

41. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 32, wherein said ~~substrate~~ cell is a ~~eukaryote or the~~ cell of said a eukaryote.

42. (Original) The method of Claim 41, wherein said eukaryote is a vertebrate.

43. (Original) The method of Claim 41, wherein said eukaryote is a mouse.

44. (Original) The method of Claim 41, wherein said eukaryote is chimpanzee.

45. (Original) The method of Claim 41, wherein said eukaryote is a human being.

46.-54. (Canceled)

55. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 32, wherein the composition consists of an mRNA-cDNA hybrid capable of inhibiting the expression of said targeted gene.

56.-57. (Canceled)

58. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~56~~ 55, wherein said ~~substrate~~ cell expresses said targeted gene *in vivo*.

59. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~56~~ 55, wherein said targeted gene comprises a gene selected from the group consisting of pathogenic nucleic acids, viral genes, mutated genes, and oncogenes.

60. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~56~~ 55, wherein said mRNA-cDNA hybrid inhibits β -catenin expression.

61. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~56~~ 55, wherein said ~~substrate cell~~ is a prokaryote prokaryotic cell.

62. (Canceled)

63. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 61, wherein said ~~prokaryote cell~~ is a bacterial cell.

64. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~56~~ 55, wherein said ~~substrate cell~~ is a eukaryote ~~or the cell of said~~ a eukaryote.

65. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 64, wherein said eukaryote is a vertebrate.

66. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 64, wherein said eukaryote is a mouse.

67. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 64, wherein said eukaryote is chimpanzee.

68. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 64, wherein said eukaryote is a human being.